## **CLAIMS**

- Method, comprising the steps of:
   determining in a first radio network controller that an overload condition exists,
   signaling a second radio network controller that said overload condition exists and
   a proposed action to alleviate the overload condition.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.
- 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
  receiving the signaling from the first controller in the second controller, and
  carrying out the proposed action to alleviate the overload condition.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.
- 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.
- 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.
- 10. The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

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11. Apparatus, comprising:

means for determining in a first radio network controller that an overload condition exists;

means for signaling a second radio network controller that said overload condition exists and a proposed action to alleviate the overload condition.

- 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.
- 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.
- 14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.
- 15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.
- The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:means for receiving in the second controller the signaling from the first controller;

means for carrying out the proposed action in the second controller to alleviate the overload condition.

- 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.
- 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.
- 19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.



20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.